

REMARKS

Claims 14-26 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 14-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dixon et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,677,338). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 14 of the present invention recites "... ...,each at least one constricted portion being formed in an area... ...and each being provided only in an area other than an area in which the electrode and the metal foil are connected and other than an area in which the external lead and the metal foil are connected,..." and "wherein said area in which the external lead and the metal foil are connected is not provided with said constricted portion."

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner relies on Dixon et al. (hereafter Dixon). According to Dixon, the constricted portion refers to the portion having a greater depression than the adjacent portions. As shown in the attached diagram of Dixon, a "constricted portion" is provided in "an area in which the electrode and the metal foil are connected". Notably, the area in which the external lead and the metal foil are connected is provided with a constricted portion. Hence, Dixon teaches away from the present invention and fails to teach or suggest the feature of claim 14 of the present invention.

In Dixon, since a "constricted portion" is provided in "an area in which the electrode and the metal foil are connected", the effect of Claim 14 of preventing the

decrease in strength of connection between the electrode and the metal foil cannot be achieved. Such effect is achieved by providing a sealing material (glass) having a thickness at least more than or equal to that of the adjacent portions in "an area in which the electrode and the metal foil are connected".

In order to more fully distinguish the Applicants' invention, independent claim 14 has been amended to recite that "said area in which the external lead and the metal foil are connected is not provided with said constricted portion."

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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